

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

NIC-01 AID-20 DPW-01 EUR-25 OMB-01 /127 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

CINCPAC

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: US, XC, PFOR

SUBJECT: MARCH 12 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. NYT' S APPLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON ADMIN WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR NVN AID ONLY IF HANOI STOPS SVN INFILTRATION AND PULLS NVA OUT OF LAOS. NO DECISION UNTIL MID- MAY WHETHER TO PRESS FOR AID. CONCEPT IN CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE ON CAPITOL HILL. MCGOVERN OPPOSES PLAN, GIVEN DOMESTIC PROGRAM CUTS, AND SUGGESTS BIG MILITARY CONTRACTORS DURING VN WAR SHOULD MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION (WP). HUMPHREY TELLS NEWSMEN AFTER WH WORSHIP SERVICE HE SUPPORTS NVN AID FOLLOWING PRESIDENT' S ASSURANCE IT WOULD NOT COME OUT OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS. SAYS HE WOULD HAVE ASKED HAK BE HIS FOREIGN POLICY AIDE IF HE HAD BEEN ELECTED, SAYING HAK IS " A PROFESSIONAL... AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN" (CHITRIB). APPLE ALSO SAYS SOME US SOURCES BELIEVE STRUGGLE NOW TAKING PLACE IN HANOI

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POLITBUREAU OVER WHETHER ACCEPT US CONDITIONS FOR AID.

2. COMMUNIST JMC DELS ANNOUNCE NEXT US POW RELEASES BEGINNING WEDNESDAY. 140 EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED (NYT, SUN). WP REPORTS US SPOKESMAN IN SAIGON ANNOUNCES US SUSPENDING FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS UNTIL NEXT BATCH RELEASED AND UNTIL US RECEIVES NAMES AND RELEASE TIME OF FINAL BATCH. TROOP STRENGTH DIPPED BELOW 7000 SUNDAY.

3. US SAIGON COMMAND ANNOUNCES NVA REMOVED SAM-2 S FROM KHE SANH. CANADA' S GAUVIN HAD CHARGED ICCS VIOLATED ITS OWN MANDATE BY REFUSING INVESTIGATE US- GVN COMPLAINT. ON , FACE THE NATION," SEC. ROGERS REVEALS US HAD COMPLAINED PRIVATELY TO NVN AS WELL AS PROTESTING TO ICCS. HE GIVES MAJOR CREDIT TO CANADA, SAYING PUBLICITY GENERATED BY GAUVIN " RESULTED IN THE REMOVAL OF THE MISSILE SITE" (SUN). SECRETARY ALSO (1) SAYS US, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, TRYING ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATED CAMBODIA SETTLEMENT; (2) DOUBTS US AIR POWER WILL BE NEEDED AGAIN TO HEAD OFF MASSIVE NVN OFFENSIVE; AND (3) ANTICIPATES SOME FORM OF TIGHTLY COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL - BUT NOT NECESSARILY MULTI-NATIONAL - AID EFFORT FOR NVN WILL BE WORKED OUT (SUN).

4. SUN RECAPITULATES FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS' CALL ON PRESIDENT TO DISCLOSE DETAILS OF POSSIBLE WEATHER MODIFICATION IN VN, NOTING PELL' S SENATE RES. 71 PROPOSES TREATY PROHIBITING WEATHER MODIFICATION IN WAR.

5. JOSEPH STERNE (SUN) REFERS TO SENATE STAFF STUDIES DEPICTING PHILS AS SORT OF ASIAN TIME BOMB WHICH, IF DETONATED, COULD CONFRONT US WITH HARD POLICY CHOICES. SOBERING REMINDER THAT END TO VN INVOLVEMENT WILL NOT END US PROBLEMS IN ASIA. TO PREPARE FOR DELICATE NEW CHAPTER IN WASHINGTON- MANILA RELATIONS, ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY ASSIGNING DEPUTY ASST. SEC. SULLIVAN, A LEADING FIGURE IN VN NEGOTIATIONS. INDOCHINA CONFLICT, WHICH HAS BEEN FOCUS OF SULLIVAN' S ATTENTION, DID MUCH TO UNDERMINE " MUNICH" SYNDROME THAT ENCOURAGED US INTERVENTION OVERSEAS ON SCALE NOT COMMENSURATE WITH VITAL SECURITY NEEDS. PERHAPS IN FUTURE, PHILS COULD BE TESTING PLACE FOR THE REVERSE -- POST- VN UNCLASSIFIED

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MENTALITY THAT WOULD RESIST US ENTANGLEMENT ALMOST ANY-

WHERE REGARDLESS OF VITAL SECURITY NEEDS. ROGERS

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